

200209630-1

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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed December 12, 2006. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status:

By the forgoing amendment, claims 1-9, 13, 15-30 and 33-53 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 10-12, 14, 31 and 32 are currently pending for further action.

Allowable Subject Matter:

In the recent Office Action, the Examiner indicated the presence of allowable subject matter in claims 10-12, 14, 31 and 32. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner's conclusions regarding the patentability of these claims, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, Applicant believes that these claims are allowable because the prior art fails to teach, anticipate or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the claims or claimed subject matter may be paraphrased.

Accordingly, claims 10, 14 and 31 have been amended herein and rewritten as independent claims. Therefore, based on the Examiner finding of allowable subject matter, claims 10-12, 14, 31 and 32 should be in condition for immediate allowance following entry of this amendment.

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All other claims in the application have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to expedite the issuance of claims 10-12, 14, 31 and 32. Therefore, following entry of this amendment, the application should be in condition for immediate allowance.

Prior Art:

Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 15, 22, 23, 29, 30, 33 and 39-41 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0158955 to Hess et al. This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation herein of the rejected claims.

Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 15, 22, 23, 29, 30, 33 and 39-41 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 6,991,332 to Fan et al. This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation herein of the rejected claims.

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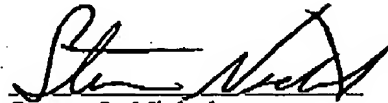
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Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: March 12, 2007

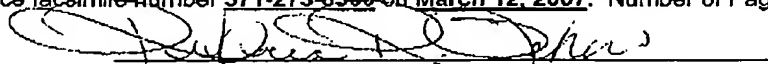

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number ~~571-273-8390~~ on March 12, 2007. Number of Pages: 9


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